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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 /060 W
----------106551 102132Z /66
R 101557Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4036
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG IS XF
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MEDIA ON SINAI SETTLEMENTS

REF: CAIRO 00752

1. MEDIA JANUARY 10, DESPITE FLASHY FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE OF ARRIVAL IN ASWAN OF SHAH OF IRAN (SEPTEL), CONTAIN PERVASIVE LEITMOTIF OF GOE CONCERN OVER RECENT ISRAELI STATEMENTS CONCERNING SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI. GUMHURIYYA HEADLINES SADAT'S INSTRUCTIONS TO FONMIN KAMEL ON EVE OF 'POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN JERUSALEM: EGYPT REJECTS ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND DEMANDS SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL OF INTERNATIONAL BORDER AREA. ENGLISH LANGUAGE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE QUOTES FONMIN KAMEL STATEMENT JAN 9 THAT BEGIN'S COMMENTS ON SINAI SETTLEMENTS "ASTONISHING" AND TOTALLY "INCONSISTENT WITH SPIRIT OF EGYPT'S PEACE INITIATIVES." AHRAM NOTES THAT GOE WILL INSIST UPON DISCUSSION OF SINAI
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SETTLEMENTS IN MILITARY (NOT POLITICAL) COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ALL DAILIES REPORT THAT VP MUBARAK AWAITING TEXT OF BEGIN'S REMARKS TO HERUT ON SINAI SETTLEMENTS FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS.

2. GUMHURIYYA REPORTS STATEMENTS BY NSC DIRECTOR BRZEZINSKI THAT NEW SINAI SETTLEMENTS REPRESENT ISRAELI

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MIS-ESTIMATION OF CURRENT SITUATION AND CONSTITUTE COM-
PLICATION FOR CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE ME
SETTLEMENT. AHRAM QUOTES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING,
CARTER THAT USG CONFIDENT OF SOLUTION TO PROBLEM, AL-
THOUGH USG WILLING TO PRESENT ITS VIEWPOINT CONCERNING
SETTLEMENTS IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS, "IF THIS WOULD
BE USEFUL". AHRAM REPORTS WITHOUT COMMENT REPORT FROM
TEL AVIV THAT WEIZMAN, DURING MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS
OPENING JANUARY 11, WILL PROPOSE THREE SECTORS IN SINAI:
(A) AREA FROM SUEZ CANAL TO GIDDI AND MITLA PASSES, WITH
APPROXIMATELY SAME NUMBER OF EGYPTIAN TROOPS AS AT PRESENT;
(B) DMZ FROM AL-ARISH TO EILAT TO SHARM AL-SHAYKH, CON-
TAINING ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN, AND U.S. EARLY WARNING STATIONS;
AND (C) AREA ALONG INTERNATIONAL BORDER, CONTAINING ISRAELI
SETTLEMENTS, WHICH WOULD RETURN TO EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY,
ALTHOUGH ADMINISTERED BY UN AND WITH ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS
UNDER ISRAELI AUTHORITY AND LAWS.

3. ALL EDITORIALS AND RADIO CAIRO COMMENTARIES DEAL WITH
SINAI SETTLEMENTS. EDITORIAL WRITERS TAKE NOTE OF BEGIN'S
THREAT TO MODIFY BORDERS SHOULD GOE INSIST UPON DISMANTLING
OF SETTLEMENTS, BUT SETTLEMENTS ISSUE SEEN PRIMARILY AS
ISRAELI TRIAL BALLOON, A MANEUVER WHICH EGYPT NOT PREPARED
TO ACCEPT. AKHBAR EDITORIAL STRESSES THAT SUDDEN ISRAELI
ATTENTION TO SINAI SETTLEMENTS PRIMARILY ATTEMPT BY BEGIN
TO GAIN DOMESTIC MANEUVERING ROOM AND NOTES COMPLICATING
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ENTRACE OF ALIGNMENT LEADER PERES INTO SETTLEMENT QUESTION.
GUMHURIYYA SEES CAMPAIGN OF "OUTBIDDING" BETWEEN LIKUD
AND LABOR ON SETTLEMENTS QUESTION. RADIO COMMENTARIES
STRESS NECESSITY FOR COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI
AND WEST BANK, WHILE NOTING THAT BEGIN, IN WAKE OF CARTERR
SADAT AGREEMENT ON WEST BANK DURING ASWAN MEETING, HAS
SHIFTED ATTENTION TO SINAI SETTLEMENTS TO STRENGTHEN HIS
BARGAINING POSITION. ONE COMMENTARY NOTES THAT US "IN ITS
CAPACITY AS GREAT POWER MUST ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY OF PRE-
SERVING WORLD PEACE AND OF PUTTING ISRAEL ON CORRECT
COURSE . . . AND CONVINCE BEGIN THAT HIS STATEMENTS ARE NOT
IN INTEREST OF PEACE."

4. COMMENT: TREATMENT IS GENERALLY UNEMOTIONAL AND CUR-
RENT GOE ASSUMPTION APPEARS TO BE THAT ISSUE PRIMARILY
AN ISRAELI MANEUVER GENERATED BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL
PRESSURES. COVERAGE STRESSES, HOWEVER, THAT GOE NOT PRE-
PARED TO COMPROMISE ON SETTLEMENTS AND THERE IS STRONG
INDICATION IN COVERAGE, ECHOED BY OFFICIAL EMBASSY CONTACTS
THAT, IF BEGIN NOT IN FACT SIMPLY ENGAGING IN DIVERSIONARY
MANEUVERS, GOE WILL ASK US DELEGATION TO POLITICAL COMMIT-
TEE TO ACT UPON LONG-STATED USG POSITION THAT SETTLEMENTS

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ILLEGAL AND "OBSTACLE" TO PEACE AND TO URGE ISRAELIS TO
ABANDON SETTLEMENTS. EILTS

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